

Message Text

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S/S - MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 245194

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SY, LE

SUBJ: SYRIAN JEWS IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 14087

1. GAYNOR JACOBSON, HEAD OF HIAS, TELEPHONED DEPT OFF TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO CAUSING UNDUE PUBLICITY TO SENSITIVE ISSUE OF SYRIAN JEWS IN LEBANON WHO ARE SEEKING EMIGRATION. JACOBSON STATED HIS GROUP HAD BEEN RECENTLY IN CONTACT IN PARIS WITH GRAND RABBI OF LEBANON AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN GOF AND HIAS FOR ENTRY INTO FRANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 93 SYRIAN JEWS IN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO THIS PLAN SYRIAN JEWS WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH DOCUMENTATION AND WOULD BE CLEARED TO ENTER FRANCE WITH PARIS AS POINT OF ENTRY. ONLY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, JACOBSON
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SAID, IS THAT OF TRANSPORTATION AND SAFE EXIT FROM LEBANON.

GRAND RABBI REPORTEDLY WILL TRY TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOL FOR SAFE EXIT. HIAS IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING CHARTER FLIGHT TO GET ALL 93 SYRIAN JEWS OUT OF LEBANON AT THE SAME TIME IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE ANY DANGER TO THEIR SAFETY.

2. JACOBSON'S ORGANIZATION IS HOLDING INFORMATION ON

THESE ARRANGEMENTS VERY CLOSELY AND SPECIFICALLY IS NOT DIVULGING DETAILS OF PLAN TO CONCERNED PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN MOST ACTIVE IN TRYING TO GET PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR RELEASE OF SYRIAN JEWS IN LEBANON. JACOBSON SAID CONFIDENTIAL NATURE THIS PLAN MUST BE PROTECTED AND THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS. HE IS COUNSELING EVERYONE HE CONTACTS, INCLUDING CONCERNED AMERICAN CITIZENS AND "COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY", TO BE CALM UNTIL FIRST OF THE NEW YEAR BY WHICH TIME ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED.

3. COMMENT: JACOBSON'S PLAN SEEMS TO BE VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL THAT GRAND RABBI OF LEBANON IS TRYING TO WORK OUT WITH ASSISTANCE GOL TRANSFER OF SYRIAN JEWS IN LEBANON ACROSS LEBANESE BORDER INTO ISRAEL. WE DO NOT KNOW IF JACOBSON IS AWARE OF THIS OTHER PLAN AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LEBANESE JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE AT LEAST TWO ALTERNATIVE PLANS UNDER CONSIDERATION. WE, ON OUR PART, ARE COUNSELING INTERESTED PARTIES WHO CALL DEPARTMENT TO BE PATIENT AND TO ALLOW TIME FOR DISCREET AND SENSITIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO WORK THEMSELVES OUT. RUSH

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